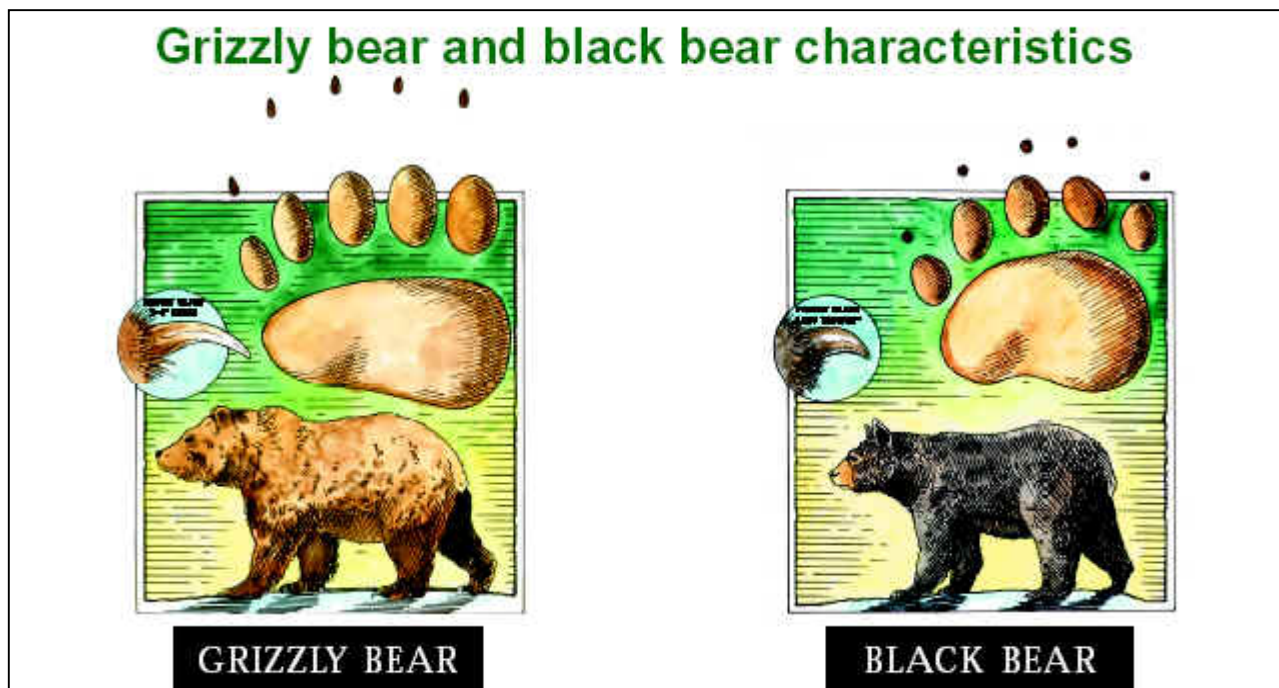


## Grizzly Bear and Black Bear Identification

Grizzly bears and black bears look different in several ways. Color and size cannot be used for identification because they vary greatly in both species of bears. Look for a combination of several characteristics.

1. The shoulder hump, which is actually muscle mass to assist in digging, is usually much more pronounced on a grizzly bear than a black bear.
2. The facial profile of a grizzly bear is more dished-in (concave) than the straight, 'roman nose' facial profile of a black bear.
3. Grizzly bear front claws are as long as a human finger (up to 4 inches), while black bear claws are much shorter (less than 2 inches) and more curved to assist in climbing.
4. Grizzly bear ears are shorter and rounder than black bear ears.



### Grizzly bear characteristics – more information

- Prominent shoulder hump ● Rump is lower than shoulder
- Dished face profile ● Round, small ears ● Color varies: blond to black
- Often medium to dark brown with grizzled fur on head, face, upper body
- 6-7 feet tall standing upright ● 3.5 - 4 feet at shoulder on all four legs
- Average weight is 300 - 500 lbs
- Males are larger and may weight up to 800 lbs

### Black bear characteristics – more information

- No distinctive hump on shoulder ● long, straight face profile
- Tall, prominent ears ● Usually light brown snout
- Can be black, brown, cinnamon, rust, blond
- 5 feet tall standing upright ● 2.5 - 3 feet at shoulder on all four legs
- Average weight is 100 - 300 lbs
- Males are larger and may weight up to 400 lbs.

Illustration by Ward P. Hooper. © Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee (IGBC)

You can take a bear ID test at the following websites (sites not associated with GBOP):  
[www.bebearaware.org/gallerynfnfbww.htm](http://www.bebearaware.org/gallerynfnfbww.htm) or <http://fwp.state.mt.us/bearid/>

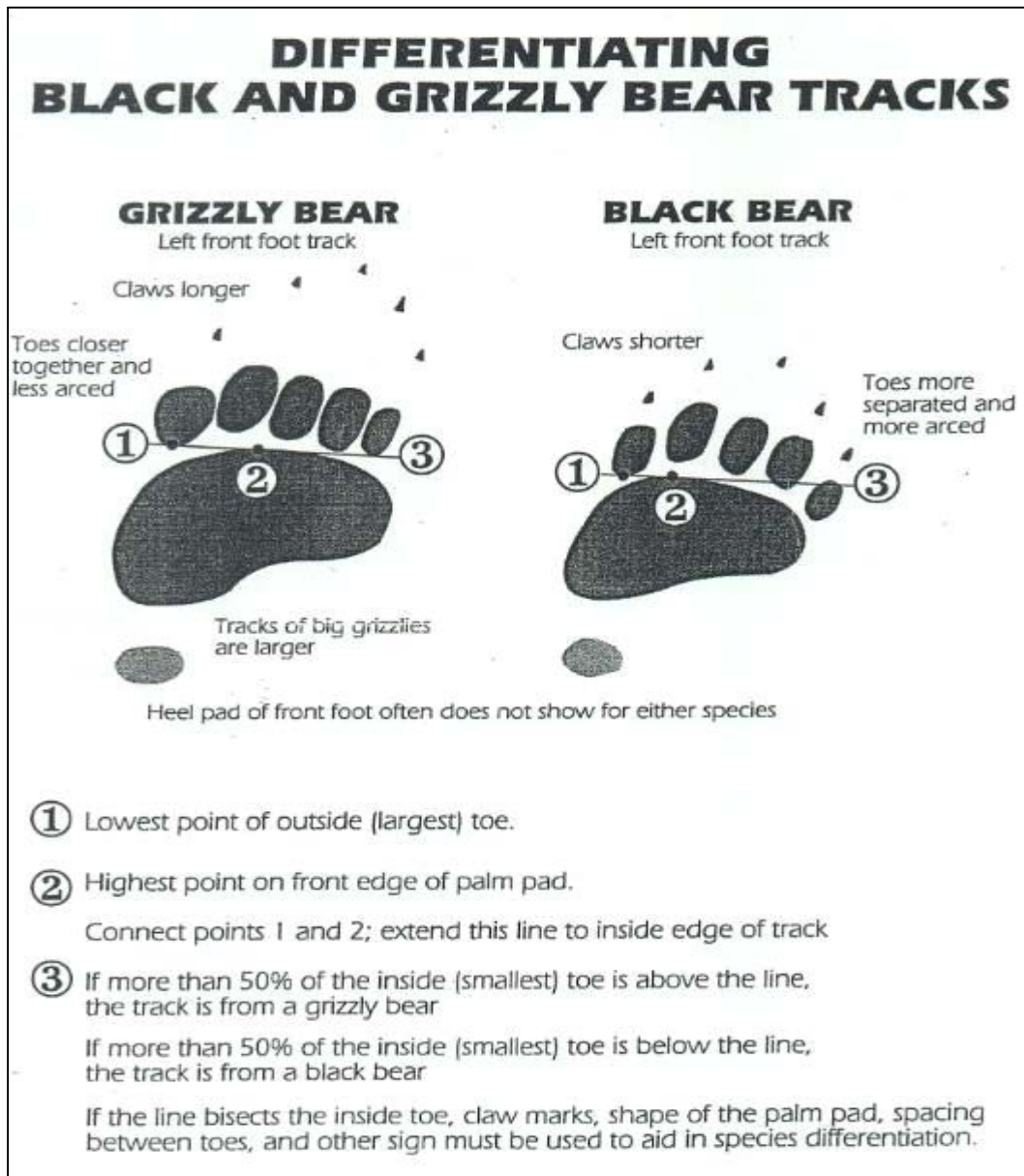
For information about the grizzly bears and the recovery process in the North Cascades of WA, check out the **Grizzly Bear Outreach Project's (GBOP)** website at: [www.bearinfo.org](http://www.bearinfo.org)

**Please report all North Cascades grizzly bear observations  
and field sign (such as large excavation digs) to:**

**1-888-WOLF-BEAR and 360 734 6060 (GBOP)**

## Grizzly Bear or Black Bear Tracks? The Palmisciano Line Method

The difference between grizzly bear and black bear tracks can be very subtle. However, the Palmisciano line method can help you to identify a grizzly bear track correctly. Take this sheet into the backcountry with you. If you come across what you think is a grizzly bear track, take a photograph and some measurements, and call the number below.



For information about the grizzly bears and the recovery process in the North Cascades of WA, check out the **Grizzly Bear Outreach Project's (GBOP)** website at: [www.bearinfo.org](http://www.bearinfo.org)

Please report all North Cascades grizzly bear observations  
and field sign (such as large excavation digs) to:

**1-888-WOLF-BEAR and 360 734 6060 (GBOP)**